(b) whether the cultivation of opium has been banned in some of the areas;

(c) if so, the names of these areas and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check it;

(d) whether Government have issued licences for the cultivation of opium in some more areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Cultivation of opium poppy is undertaken only in the notified tracts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh under strict licensing control and supervision of the Central Government. Such tracts have been notified for the opium crop year 1991-92 *vide* Govt. of India Notification No. 1/91, dated 1st October, 1991.

To check illicit cultivation of opium poppy, different drug law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil and stringent penal measures have been provided under the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Projects

1794. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries including Germany and France have offered to aid some projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where the said projects are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The donor countries normally offer assistance in terms of an overall pledge. Thereafter aid negotiations, as a continuous process, are held with each donor countrry for various project and non-project needs of the economy. The details such as project and non-project assistance, terms and conditions etc. are known only after the agreements with donor countries are finalised.

[English]

Customs Officials Aiding Smuggling Activities

1795. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Customs officials posted at the airports found aiding and abetting the smuggling activities during each of the last three years, airport-wise;

(b) the action taken against such officials and the number of them posted again to the airports inspite of their involvement;

(c) whether the procedure for posting of Customs officials at the airports is being followed strictly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Repair of N.H.No. 43 at Sunki Ghat

1796. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa have forwarded any estimate for the repair of National Highway No. 43 at Sunki Ghat which was damaged due to landslides; and

(b) if so, the funds provided/proposed to be provided by the Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An estimate for cyclone damages to Sunki Ghat on NH43 was sanctioned for Rs. 8.57 lakhs in February, 1991 and the full amount against this estimate has already been released. Further, two works, one for protection against valley slips for Rs. 24.35 lakhs, and another for construction of retaining walls amounting to Rs. 10.86 lakhs, have been sanctioned on 30-10-91 and 20-2-92 respectively. One more estimate under flood damages involving some repairs at Sunki Ghat has been received recently. Meantime, Rs. 30.00 lakhs have already been relased on *ad hoc* basis for repairs of urgent nature on all National Highways in Orissa which includes this stretch also.

Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers

1797. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
PROF. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers, as on December 31, 1991, Satewise; and

(b) the number and amount of claims settled under this scheme during 1991 in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The State-wise statistics are not maintained by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. However, the number of beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers has been estimated to be 1.5 crores.

(b) The number and amount of claims settled under the Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers during the period from 1.4.1991 to 31.12.1991, Zone-wise, indicating the States covered thereunder, are given below:-

Zones	*Claims settled during the period from 1.4.1991*	
to 31.12.1991	*No. of Claims*	*Amount (Rs.)*
1	*2*	*3*
NORTHERN ZONE		
Haryana	510	5,10,000
Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL